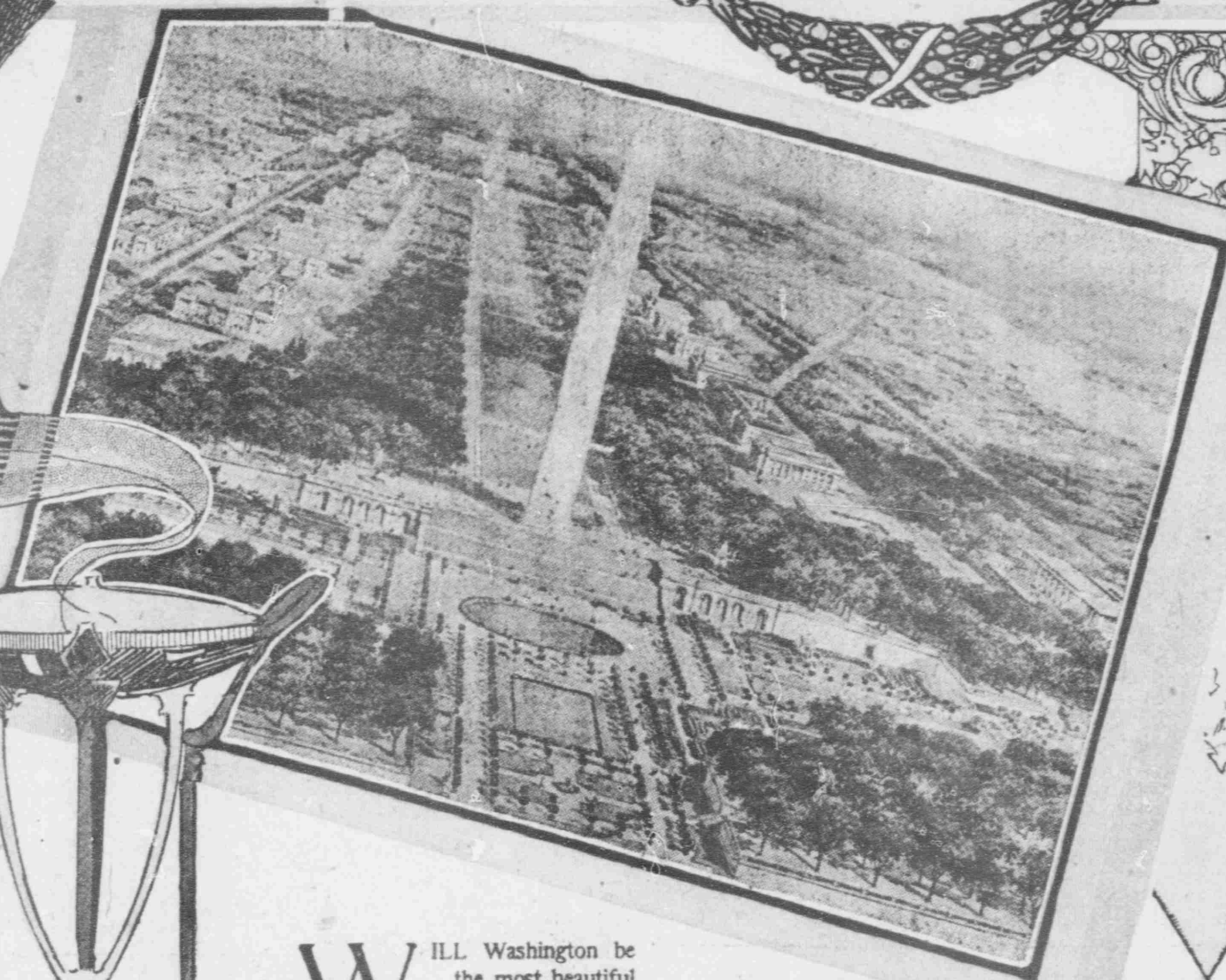
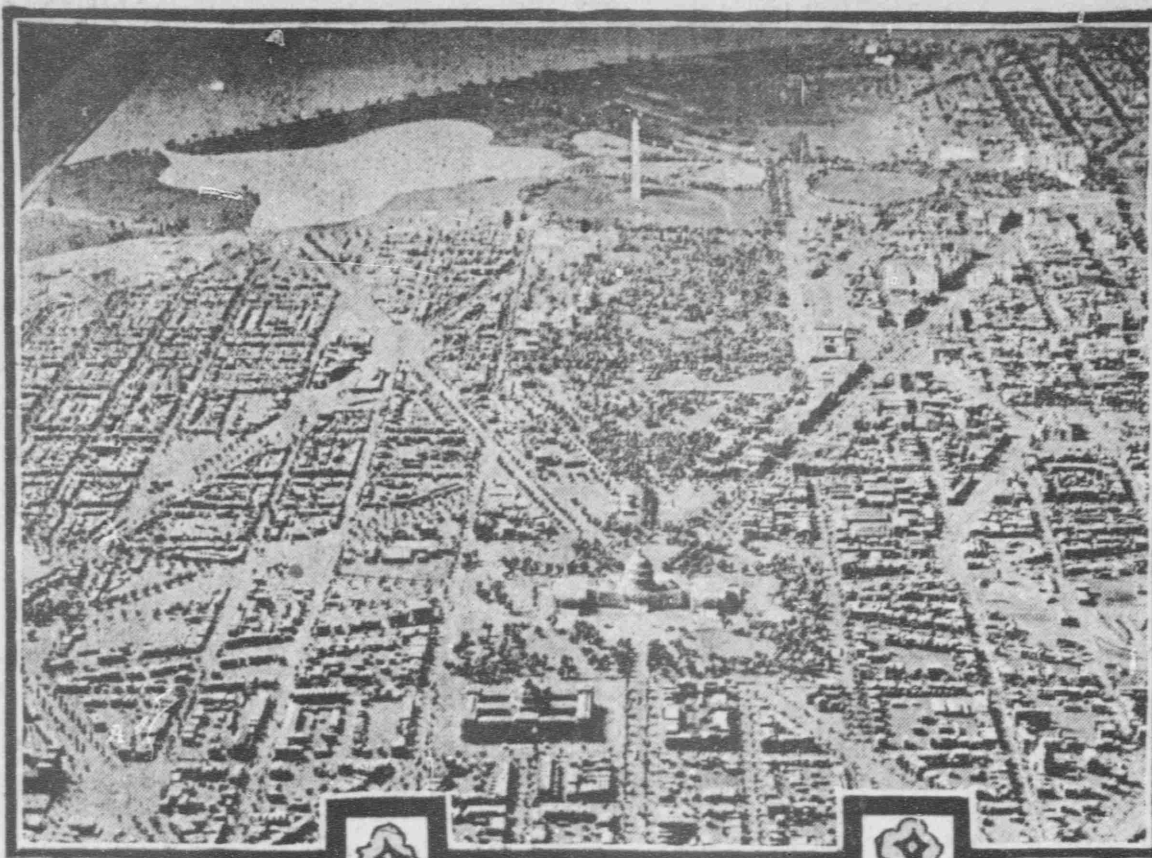


# Will Washington be Made the



Will Washington be the most beautiful city in the world?

If the plans for the beautification of the city, conceived by L'Enfant and George Washington and worked out in detail by the Park Commission, are carried out, it will be. If the policy of considering every building and statue as an entity without relation to the whole plan of the city is

adopted, it will not be. Neither will it lead the cities of the world if the present proposition to change the site of the Grant memorial from the noble Union square to some other place prevails.

In speaking of the plans of the early designers of the city and those of the Park Commission, a notable architect says:

"Washington and Jefferson exhibited an active personal interest in the plan of Washington city, and L'Enfant presented a great artistic

composition in his design with its proposed park treatment, radial streets, beautiful vistas, reciprocity of site between points of interest, and grouping of Federal buildings.

"It seems strange that with this early tendency we, as a people, should have ceased to appreciate the value of a beautiful composition and necessity for growth under artistic guidance. It is only in recent years that travel, culture, and leisure have again called the attention of our people to the pleasure and cultivation derived from beautiful surroundings.

"The report of the Park Commission on the future development of Washington city secured by the efficient

management of Senator McMillan was a spark which lighted a fire of enthusiasm that has spread North, South, East, and West. In this movement culture and business go hand in hand. While culture is striving to attain the ideal in the elevation and refinement of life, business has been quick to appreciate the monetary value of beauty."

In order that the plans of the Park Commission may be understood clearly, The Times publishes pictures of the commission. They clearly illustrate the city as it is, and the city as it should and is designed to be, the most beautiful in the world. Glenn Brown, the secretary of the American Institute of Architects, explains these models. He says:

"Two models were presented by the Park Commission with their report, one showing the city as it is, the other showing the city as they suggest it should be."

## Nearly Destroyed.

"The model of the city as it is, shows how a want of sympathy in well-meaning people has nearly destroyed the great composition left us by the Father of His Country. Since the days of Madison each park, building, and monument has been designed as an individual entity, without relation to the other, thus the dignity of the composition has been lost. Looking from the Monument to the Capitol, one sees a tangle of trees, a jumble of unrelated buildings, jarring one with the other. The unsightly Botanic Garden and the Pennsylvania railway station are prominent and unpleasant objects always in plain view of the Capitol. This model graphically displays the want of judgment in the disposition of Federal buildings without uniformity of design or grouping, and the thoughtless destruction of the beautiful vistas which constituted the fundamental and distinctive feature of the original plan."

## Simplicity, Dignity.

"The model of the Mall, which illustrates the proposed reinstatement and development of L'Enfant's design, demonstrates what may be accomplished by directness, simplicity and dignity in park treatment and grouping of classic structures. The composition contemplates two principal axes, one east and west, beginning with the Capitol and the Grant Memorial in Union square, having as its central feature the Washington Monument and ending with the Lincoln Memorial, the other beginning with the White House, having as its central feature the Monument Garden, ends with the Monument to the Constitution. The planting and roadways of the park, the architectural adornments, and the disposition of new buildings are assigned to emphasize these axes and enhance and dignify the Capitol, the White House, the Washington Monument, the Lincoln and Grant Memorials, and the Memorial to the Constitution, which are the principal points of interest and beauty in the composition."

## Principal Part.

The Mall system is the principal part of the great plan outlined by the Park Commission, and is directly and vitally affected by the present controversy over the location of the Grant Memorial. Of this system the Park Commission, in its report, said:

"The city of Washington, during the century since its foundation, has been developed in the main according to the plan made in 1791 by Maj. Peter Charles L'Enfant, and approved by President Washington. That plan the Commission has aimed to restore, develop, and supplement."

"The 'Congress House' and the 'President's Palace,' as he termed them, were the cardinal features of the L'Enfant plan and these edifices were connected by a grand avenue 400 feet in breadth, and about a mile in length, bordered by gardens, ending in a slope from the house on each side. At the point of intersection of two lines, one drawn through the center of the Capitol, the other through the center of the White House, L'Enfant fixed the site of an equestrian statue of George Washington, one of the numerous statues voted by the

## Key to Illustrations

### WASHINGTON AS IT IS TODAY.

At the Top is a Reproduction of a Model Showing the Disorderly Condition of the Mall.

### MONUMENT GARDEN AND MALL.

Looking Toward Capitol, as Proposed in the Plans, is Shown in the Center.

### LINCOLN MEMORIAL AND FOREST.

View From Monument as Designed by the Park Commission is Depicted Beneath.

